

**POLITENESS STRATEGIES USED IN REQUEST BY THE CHARACTERS
IN *INCEPTION* MOVIE**

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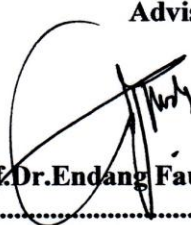
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Politeness Strategies used in Request by the Characters in *Inception* Movie

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Abstract

Request is the most common speech act used by people to ask someone to do something. Intrinsically request is a face threatening act which commonly put threats on requestee's negative face. This paper investigates the politeness strategies involved in the requests found in *Inception* movie. This research is a descriptive qualitative method. The data of this research are the excerpts of conversation which are produced by all the characters with the other containing request strategy in *Inception* movie. The politeness is used by the characters of the movie is analyzed using politeness strategies proposed by Brown and Levinson (1987). The result of the study show that The greatest amount of politeness strategy which is used by all the characters is bald-on record that is 72 cases.

Key words: *Politeness strategy, Bald on-record, Positive, Negative politeness, Requests*

1. Introduction

A request is a speech act whereby a requester conveys to a requestee that he/she wants the requestee to perform an act which is for the benefit of the requester (Trosborg, 1995, p. 187). The act may be a request for an object, an action or some kind of service, etc. or it can be a request for information. The speech act of request has been widely examined in pragmatic research. For example Wichmann (2004) investigated the meaning of intonation "please" in requests which was similarly studied by Martinez (2009). Other study examined request used by second language learners, for example Mohamed (2012) examined the role Negative Politeness in request used by non native speakers of English. Request was also studied cross culturally, for example Yaqubi and Afgari (2011) studied cross cultural different the use of request in Persian and English. Although previous studies have examined requests in different perspectives, the use of politeness in request has been rarely investigated, and hence this study is to fill in this gap. Thus this present study examines politeness strategies in requests used in *Inception* movie.

Trosborg (1995) states that the request is by definition a face-threatening act (FTA). The requester who makes a request attempts to exercise power over. Thus,

he/she threatens the requestee's negative face by indicating that he/she does not intend to refrain from impeding the requestee's freedom of action. The requester also runs the risk of losing face him/herself, as the requestee may choose to refuse to comply with his/her wishes. Because of this politeness is very crucial in request.

2. Politeness

Brown and Levinson (1987: 92) outline four main types of politeness strategies: bald on-record, negative politeness, positive politeness, and off-record (indirect).

a) Bald on-Record

This strategy provides no effort by speaker to reduce the impact of FTA's, the speaker will most likely the person whom he or she is speaking to, embarrass them, or make them feel a bit uncomfortable. The situation when person directly address the other as a certain expression such as ask something, please, or commands. In addition, the use of direct command is usually happened in the emergency situation. This strategy is tending to show in urgent situation, emphasize maximum efficiency, non-cooperation from hearer, speaker cares about hearer, granting permission for the hearer, and even imperative.

b) Positive Politeness

Positive politeness strategy is oriented to enhance the positive face of hearer. Positive face is the hearer need to be appreciated and accepted by others. It leads to achieve solidarity through offers of friendship. The strategy includes Strategy 1 (Notice, attend to hearer's interest, want, needs etc.), Strategy 2: Exaggerate (interest, sympathy, etc with the hearer), Strategy 3: use in-group identity marker, Strategy 4: seek agreement and avoid disagreement, Strategy 5: assert speaker's knowledge of and concern for hearer's wants, Strategy 6: include both speaker and, Strategy 7: give hearer sympathy, understanding, cooperation, and Strategy 8: joke.

c) Negative Politeness

Negative politeness strategy is oriented towards a hearer's negative face. Negative face is the desire to have freedom of action, freedom of imposition and not to be impeded by others. Therefore, these automatically assume that there might be same social distances or awkwardness's in the situation. This strategy is tending to show be conventionally indirect, to show deference, emphasize the importance of others time or concerns, an apology for interruption, impersonalize S and H, State the FTA as a general rule, and even includes Nominalize.

d) Off-record indirect strategy

It strategy is the opposite of bald on-record. This main purpose is to take some of the speaker's pressure off. The speaker is removing himself or herself from any imposing what so ever. In cases where the risk is estimated as very high, speaker realize the act in a way that leaves maximal option for deniability. In simple term, off record realizes the act so indirectly. The strategy of off-record can be performed such strategy 1: Give hints, strategy 2: Give association clues, strategy 3: Presuppose, strategy 4: Understate, strategy 5: Overstate, strategy 6: Use tautologies, strategy 7: Use contradictions, strategy 8: Be ironic, strategy 9: Use

metaphors, strategy 10: Use rhetorical questions, strategy 11: Be ambiguous, strategy 12: Be vague, strategy 13: Over-generalize, strategy 14: Displace H (hearer can choose to do the act as a bonus free gift), and strategy 15: Be incomplete, use ellipsis.

3. Method

This is descriptive research of which procedure results in descriptive data both in oral and written from the observed people or behaviour. This research describes politeness used by the all characters of *Inception* movie.

This research is done to the use of politeness strategies used in requests by the characters in the film entitled “Inception”. “Inception”, the object of the study, was produced by intertainment inc and distributed by Warner Bros picture in 2010. Christopher Nolan is the story makers of this film.

The data of this study is excerpts which contain request strategy used by the characters in *Inception* movie. Data Source. The main data sources is *Inception* Movies, i.e. its scripts. The data are taken from http://www.4shared.com/PostDownload/f2-UPMFJ/Movie_action_file_.html.

The technique of collecting the data is documentation. The following are some procedures of collecting the data. Those are watching the movie to understand its story line, reading its transcript and documenting utterances which contain requests, and coding the data of the study

4. Results

The following section describes the types of politeness strategy used by the characters. The strategy are bald on-record, positive politeness, negative politeness, and off-record but the researcher only finds bald on-record, positive politeness, and negative politeness.

a. Bald on-Record

This research only finds the data of strategy 1 (urgent situation), strategy 2 (when maximum efficiency is very important), strategy 3 (speaker’s want to satisfy hearer’s face is small), strategy 4 (speaker cares about hearer), and strategy 6 (imperative). The writer analized them based on the elements of politeness: social distance, power, and degree of imposition.

1). Strategy 1: urgent situation

Brown and Levinson (1987: 95-96) state that strategy 1 is employed when both of speaker and hearer are in urgency condition. In case of great urgency, redress would actually decrease the communicated urgency, for example:

Hey! Come here!

Don't do that!

2). Strategy 2: maximum efficiency

Brown and Levinson (1987: 96-97) state that strategy 2 is employed when efficiency is very more important than saving other's face, for example:

Tell me...Did the two kids miss me?

I need him to decide to break up his father's empire.

I have to know you can do it.

3). Strategy 3: Satisfying the hearer’s face is small

Brown and Levinson (1987: 97) state that strategy 3 is used when the speaker's want to satisfy hearer's face is small, because the speaker is more powerful or doing non-cooperation, e.g.

Put the gun down. Please.

Now, the envelope Mr. Cobb.

4). Strategy 4: speakers care to hearers

Brown and Levinson (1987: 98) state that in strategy 4, a speaker conveys that he/she cares about hearer, for example:

you have to forgive yourself. You're gonna have to confront her. But you don't have to do that alone.

Don't jump too soon.

Go ahead.

Cobb, come on!

5). Strategy 6: imperative

Brown and Levinson (1987: 100) state that strategy 6 explored about imperative including offers. The writer explains more about the imperative in which the imperative not only an offer but also a request in the form of imperative. This following example is about bald on-record of a request in the form of imperative including an offer.

But you'd have to buy out the entire cabin.

From 72 data finding in bald on-record, there are 2 data categorized as strategy 1 with the percentage 2.8% of three level of politeness (equal, close, higher), there are 43 data categorized as strategy 2 with the percentage 59.7% of three level of politeness (equal, close, higher), there are 19 data categorized as strategy 3 with the percentage 26.3 % of three level of politeness (equal, close, higher), there are 4 data categorized as strategy 4 with the percentage 5.6 % of three level of politeness (equal, close, higher), and there are 4 data categorized as strategy 6 with the percentage 5.6 % of three level of politeness (equal, close, higher).

b. Positive Politeness

Based on the data, the writer only found strategy 5 (assert speaker's knowledge of and concern for hearer's wants) and strategy 6 (include both speaker and hearer in the activity). The writer classified them based on the elements of politeness: social distance, power, and degree of imposition.

1). Strategy 5: asserting speaker's knowledge of and concern for hearer's wants

Brown and Levinson (1987: 125) states that strategy 5 explores about asserting speaker's knowledge of and concerning for hearer's wants, for example:

Run interference. I'll meet you downstairs in the bar in, say, in half an hour (0375/ PS/PP/ST5)

Look, if you want my help, you're gonna have to be completely open with me. (026/ PS/PP/ST5)

Never recreate places from your memory. Always imagine new place.

2). Strategy 6: including both speaker and hearer in the activity

Brown and Levinson (1987: 127-128) state that strategy 6 include both speaker and hearer in the activity, for example:

*We need the heir of a major corporation to dissolve his father's empire.
 Wait, whose subconscious are we going into exactly?
 We can still be together right here. In the world we built together.
 Well, someone had to design the dreams, right?
 Why don't you give us another five minutes?*

From 19 data finding in positive politeness, there are 4 data categorized as strategy 5 with the percentage 21.1% of three level of politeness (equal, close, higher) and there are 4 data categorized as strategy 6 with the percentage 78.9% of three level of politeness (equal, close, higher).

c. Negative Politeness

The writer only finds the data which are strategy 1 (be conventionally indirect: assuming the hearer is unlikely to be able to do any acts) and strategy 2 (give deference). The writer applies politeness strategy of Brown and Levinson politeness strategy and classified them based on the level of politeness: social distance, power, and degree of imposition.

1) . Strategy 1: be conventionally indirect

Brown and Levinson (1987: 132) state that strategy 1 tended to be conventionally indirect means being pessimistic in which the speaker assumes the hearer not doing any act or unlikely to be willing to do any acts, for example:

*Can you get me access to this man here?
 Well, you can't keep her out, can you?
 Can't you even tell the difference?*

2). Strategy 2: giving deference

Brown and Levinson (1987: 178-187) states that strategy 2 explains about giving deference when speaker asked the hearer to do the act, for example:

*I need you to work with me, Mr. Fischer.
 Mr. Saito, may I have a moment?*

From 15 data finding in negative politeness, there are 13 data categorized as strategy 1 with the percentage 86.7% of three level of politeness (equal, close, higher) and there are 2 data categorized as strategy 2 with the percentage 13.3 % of three level of politeness (equal, close, higher).

5. Conclusion

The types of politeness strategy used in the movie included bald-on record, positive politeness, and negative politeness. All the characters mostly employed bald on-record to get his/her request. It could be seen from the greatest amount of politeness strategy which was used by all the characters are bald-on record (see table.5 chapter 4).

The tendency to use bald on-record was due to the nature of action movie in which direct language tends to be used. Nevertheless, speakers sometimes tried to minimize the imposition by adding a marker "please" to those of three power (higher, equal, lower). When using bald on-record, all the speakers commonly applied high imposition and lower imposition when they asked the hearers to help the requesters.

Based on the description above, the writer get three conclusions as follows: firstly, in general of all the characters' utterance is in the form of direct request based on request strategy. Secondly, in general of pragmalinguistics forms is in the form of external modification. Thirdly, in general of politeness strategy is in the form of bal on-record.

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